

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 5, 11 and 18-23 without prejudice or admission, amend claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-17, and add new claims 24-29 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of claims.

1. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED)
~~An LED~~ drive circuit comprising: a driver having a constant current circuit for driving a plurality of LEDs; a plurality of switches connected to respective ones of the LEDs and at least one switch connected to a respective LED for periodically turning on and off the LEDs ~~a respective LED~~ at certain time intervals; and a switch control circuit for controlling the switches in response to an external signal to cause the LEDs to blink in a time-division manner.

2. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED)
~~An LED~~ drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the frequency of turning on and off the LEDs ~~respective LED~~ is 5 Hz or higher.

3. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED)
~~An LED~~ drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the value of the constant current produced by the constant current circuit for driving the LEDs is in the range of about 5 to 30 mA.

4. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED)
~~An LED~~ drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the further
~~comprising a switch control circuit controls circuit for~~
~~controlling the switches at least one switch~~ in response to an
external signal to vary an on/off cycle time of the LEDs
~~respective LED.~~

5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED)
~~An LED~~ drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the
constant current circuit has an external terminal for
receiving a signal for setting the constant current value for
driving the LEDs.

7. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED)
~~An LED~~ drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the value
of the constant current produced by the constant current
circuit varies in accordance with temperature.

8. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED)
~~An LED~~ drive circuit comprising: a driver circuit having a
boosting circuit for boosting a power source voltage and
outputting a boosted voltage, and a constant current circuit
for producing a constant current for driving an LED; and a
control circuit for controlling the boosting circuit to boost

the power source voltage increase the boosted voltage when the constant current is smaller than a predetermined value, and to not boost the power source voltage for reducing the boosted voltage when the constant current has the predetermined value or more, such that the LEDs are periodically turned on and off at certain time intervals in a time-division manner based on operation of the boosting circuit.

9. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED) ~~An LED~~ drive circuit comprising: driving means for driving at least two LEDs by producing a constant current and a ~~boosted~~ voltage; and means for boosting the ~~increasing the boosted~~ voltage when the constant current is smaller than a predetermined value, and for not boosting ~~reducing the boosted~~ voltage when the constant current has the predetermined value, such that at least one of the LEDs is and for periodically turned ~~turning~~ on and off at ~~least one of the LEDs~~ at certain time intervals in a time-division manner based on the boosting operation.

10. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED) ~~An LED~~ circuit comprising: a plurality of LEDs; a constant current generating circuit for generating a constant current for driving the plurality of LEDs; and a plurality of switches each ~~at least one switch~~ connected between the

current generating circuit and a respective ones of the LEDs
~~LED~~ for causing the LEDs ~~respective LED~~ to blink in a time-
division manner ~~at a rate higher than a visual perception~~
~~rate.~~

11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended) A light emitting diode
(LED) ~~An LED~~ circuit according to claim 10; 11; wherein a
frequency of blinking of the LEDs is 5 Hz or higher.

13. (currently amended) A light emitting diode
(LED) ~~An LED~~ circuit according to claim 10; 11; wherein the
value of the constant current generated by the constant
current generating circuit for driving the LEDs is in the
range of about 5 to 30 mA.

14. (currently amended) A light emitting diode
(LED) ~~An LED~~ circuit according to claim 10; 11; further
comprising a switch control circuit for controlling the
switches in response to an external signal to vary a blinking
rate of the LEDs.

15. (currently amended) A light emitting diode
(LED) ~~An LED~~ circuit according to claim 10; 11; wherein the
constant current generating circuit has an external terminal
for receiving a signal for setting the constant current value
for driving the LEDs.

16. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED) ~~An LED~~ circuit according to claim 10; 11; wherein the value of the constant current produced by the constant current generating circuit varies in accordance with temperature.

17. (currently amended) A light emitting diode (LED) ~~An LED~~ circuit according to claim 10; 11; further comprising a boosting circuit for boosting a power supply voltage used for driving the LEDs when the constant current falls below a predetermined value.

18. - 23. (canceled).

24. (new) A light emitting diode (LED) drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the switch control circuit controls the switches such that each LED is on at a different time from the other LEDs.

25. (new) A light emitting diode (LED) drive circuit according to claim 8; wherein the control circuit causes the LEDs to periodically turn on and off at a rate higher than a visual perception rate.

26. (new) A light emitting diode (LED) drive circuit according to claim 8; wherein the control circuit causes each LED to turn on at a different time from the other LEDs.

27. (new) A light emitting diode (LED) drive circuit according to claim 9; wherein the certain intervals are higher than a visual perception rate.

28. (new) A light emitting diode (LED) drive circuit according to claim 9; wherein each LED is turned on at a different time from the other LEDs.

29. (new) A light emitting diode (LED) circuit according to claim 10; wherein the switches cause the LEDs to blink at a rate higher than a visual perception rate.